

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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June 5, 2013

Maia Bellon, Director
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Director Bellon:

I understand that the Department of Ecology (Ecology) is currently engaged in the early stages of a rulemaking effort to update the human health criteria in Washington's Surface Water Quality Standards. As we move forward with this important process, it is my goal and expectation that we protect and advance the important Washington values of human, environmental and economic health. Each of these values is essential to all Washingtonians, and they each should guide our decision making on this and other regulatory issues.

I am fully committed to engaging in this process of statewide significance. As such, I am assembling an informal group of advisors from tribal and local government, as well as the business community, to advise me on this issue. I intend to call this group together for an initial kick-off meeting in late June of this year. This effort will in no way replace your ongoing efforts to work with the public and interested parties to develop sound regulations, but instead will help inform my own thinking.

I am requesting that you participate with and staff this group of advisors, as we collectively establish a path forward in this rulemaking effort. At a minimum, I will expect Ecology to supply information on key policy and technical issues. This should include presentations of real-world scenarios illustrating how new criteria would be applied and how new implementation and compliance tools would work in the permitting context. Establishing a common understanding of the benefits and challenges of various options will provide a strong foundation for the state to ensure that its decisions advance human, environmental and economic health.

I am hopeful that the work of this informal advisory group can be accomplished by the end of this calendar year. This will enable me to provide you with guidance in order for Ecology to release a draft rule document in early 2014.

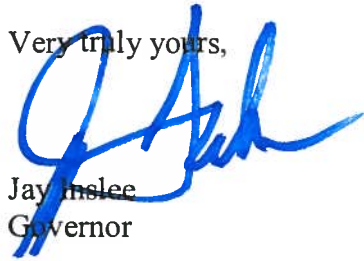
In closing, I am encouraged by the work that Ecology has accomplished to date in assessing the myriad of technical and policy aspects of this complex water quality issue. I am confident that Ecology can find a pathway to achieving cleaner water within a workable and predictable regulatory framework.



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I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee", is written over the text "Very truly yours," and "Jay Inslee Governor".

Jay Inslee
Governor